

6510
BAWL/211BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS
NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON
D.C.

News Letter No. 211

26 June 1929

AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS-BATTLE FLEET

After several weeks at anchor in San Pedro Harbor, the SARATOGA got underway for training for Short Range Battle Practice to be fired shortly after the first of July. The latter part of May, Commander Kenneth Whiting, who has been Executive Officer of the ship since her commissioning, was relieved by Commander A.C.Read. Commander Whiting's new duty is senior aide to Commander Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet. Commander Whiting has been selected for promotion to Captain and all hands will rejoice in his well deserved promotion on 1 July.

On June 3d a T4M which had been assembled and made ready on board, was flown to San Diego and delivered to Torpedo and Bombing Squadron Two-B. This is the second plane of this type which has been assembled on board and delivered to this squadron. A third has been assembled but has not yet been tested. During the week O2U planes were based at the Reserve Air Base at Long Beach, and various local and administrative flights were made by the ship's personnel. Several night flights were also made. Two seaplanes were operated from the ship during the week. Orders have been received for the delivery of an OLS from Utility Squadron 1B to the ship's utility detachment. This plane is being assigned the detachment for use as a plane guard when limited deck operations are conducted, and the use of a destroyer or other surface craft for such a purpose would be uneconomical. It is anticipated that it will prove of considerable value in this respect, and also in numerous other ways, particularly as a transport plane in handling personnel between the ship and San Diego.

On the 6th and 7th, the SARATOGA team defeated the submarine Divisions' baseball team in the first games in the official series to decide the Group B championship, the Submarine Divisions having been the San Diego Area champions, and the SARATOGA team the winners in the San Pedro area. The following week the SARATOGA's team twice played the CALIFORNIA's team and lost both games.

FILE COPY

1.

To be returned to
the files of the National
Advisory Committee
for Aeronautics
Washington, D. C.

HL-211 6/26/29

The LEXINGTON was at anchor at San Pedro, engaged in routine drills and upkeep. Major overhaul of several T4Ms has been undertaken and is progressing satisfactorily. Air Department officers commenced daily radio and spotting drills with the ship, operating two O2U1 landplanes from the Long Beach Municipal Airport in preparation for the ship's Long Range Battle Practice. Drills have been held both with the planes in the air and without. An arrangement was made whereby the conditions of actual aircraft spotting might be very closely simulated on board. Flight deck alterations have been completed and tested with satisfactory results, and all pilots were given two refresher landings on board. The Air Department has been engaged in routine repairs and upkeep work and local flights were made in the ship's Utility planes.

On June 5, Commander J. H. Hoover reported as the LEXINGTON's Executive Officer, relieving Commander White who was detached on June 8th.

The LANGLEY was berthed at the Naval Air Station dock at San Diego, California, engaged in machinery overhaul, upkeep and routine drills.

The AROOSTOOK transported personnel and material of the Observation Wing from San Pedro to San Diego, where Fleet aircraft units are gathering in preparation for the summer concentration period.

The Fighting Wing continued preparation for firing of gunnery practices. On May 31st, Fighting Squadron Three-B fired its Formation Battle Practice No. 2; in this practice special mention is made of the shooting done by Lieutenant (jg) G.A.T. Washburn.

On 1 June, Fighting Squadron 1B fired record Formation Battle Practice No. 2. On this date three planes of that squadron made a cross country flight to LOS ANGELES, returning the next day. The Commanding Officer of Fighting Squadron 2B, with three other officers of that squadron also flew to LOS ANGELES, returning the next day.

During the week, Fighting Squadron 2B commenced rehearsal of experimental bombing on a fast towed target. The first three days a target on Border Field was used. The next two days, two targets towed by two destroyers were used with very satisfactory results. During the first part of the week Fighting Squadron 3B bombed at fixed targets on Otay Mesa Field, and, the latter part of the week, targets were towed by destroyers and this squadron, while the remainder of the Fighting Wing rehearsed for the Experimental Bombing Practice to be held June 12th. Fighting